

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DIVISION OF GENETICS
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

July 5, 1957

Dear Joshua:

We have made further inquiries with respect to the indican. Due to the fact that most things in Mexico are contaminated, I just naturally assumed that the indigo produced there would contain an appreciable amount of Indican. However, this lot may not be local, as the industry has more or less died out in southern Mexico. The Instituto Indiginista, bless their souls, are trying to revive the ancient crafts and among these the growing of indigo plants. Such projects are usually futile, but at least it may provide a source for the indican. From the meager description of the process that I have read, probably the dried leaves would be the safest and most promising source for indican. This brings up the problem of importing plant material. I am trying to talk with Dr. Rappoport, who is a alkaloid chemist and frequently imports exotic plants, ^{and} who will undoubtedly know the procedure.

I am now trying to make the date, July 1, 1958 as firm as possible with respect to the laboratory. It is possible, but not very probable at this time. But possibilities do sometimes materialize if pressed hard enough. With respect to the timing here, we would favor sometime before the middle of September, when the new semester starts. I do not know how complicated the allocation of funds or the precise procedure to be followed will be, but my feeling is that the scheduling is the crucial point. I shall let you know as soon as anything develops.

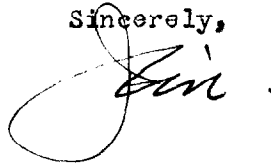
As you suggest there is a tremendous potential here for medical research; couldn't it be biological? There is bound to be development here and I fully expect that the Department of Genetics would share in it. We can discuss this at greater length when you are here.

I have not been able to get in touch with Seymour, partly because I put it off so long. However he is to call me when he comes in.

The Oakland airport is somewhat closer in miles and about the same in time from Berkeley as the San Francisco airport. I do not mind getting up at what you call an ungodly hour. I will just go to bed a little earlier. So whichever is the most convenient for you. If I do not hear to the contrary I will assume that you are arriving Saturday, August 3, at 5:31, United Air Lines, flight 541-T, at the San Francisco Airport.

Please give my best regards to Esther, and we will be looking forward to seeing you both,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "John F. Kennedy", written in dark ink.